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LOUISIANA LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

BATON ROUGE
P.O. BOX 94094

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THE LOUISIANA ECONOMIC SITUATION

Total nonagricultural employment in Louisiana was estimated at 1,637,400 in September, an increase of 8,800 from the August revised level, and 2,200 higher than the September, 1992 figure.

Employment in the goods producing industries was up by 1,000 in September, but was 2,400 below the year-ago figure. Mining was down due to less activity in the exploration for oil and gas. The special trade contractors segment was solely responsible for the increase in construction jobs in September. A seasonal increase in food and kindred products, nondurable goods pushed manufacturing payrolls higher in September.

Service producing employment was estimated at 1,307,300 in September. This was an increase of 7,800 above August and 4,600 higher than September a year ago. Transportation, communications, and public utilities employment was down by 100 in September, but within the sector, transportation was up by 300 and communications and public utilities employment was down by 400. Trade employment was lower mainly due to several segments in the retail sector. Finance, insurance, and real estate payrolls dropped as a result of decreases in the banking segment. A seasonal increase in educational services was mainly responsible for the growth in total services employment. Government employment rose due to increases in both state and local education payrolls.

Average weekly earnings of Louisiana's 136,100 production workers in manufacturing increased from $535.94 in August to $551.62 in September, an increase of $15.68, and an increase of $28.79 from September of last year. Average hourly earnings were $13.01 in September. This estimate was $0.34 higher than August and $0.65 higher than September, 1992. Average weekly hours for September were 42.4, an increase of 0.1 hour from the August revised level of 42.3 hours.

The September preliminary unemployment rate for Louisiana was 6.9 percent, a decrease from the August revised rate of 7.4 percent. The national unemployment rate for September remained the same as the August rate of 6.7 percent. Total unemployment for September decreased to 127,000. The state's civilian labor force decreased to 1,839,900, with a decrease in total employment to 1,712,900.

LOUISIANA
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Sept. 1993*	Aug. 1993**	Sept. 1992**	Net Change From Aug. 1993	Net Change From Sept. 1992
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	1,637.4	1,628.6	1,635.2	+ 8.8	+ 2.2
GOODS PRODUCING	330.1	329.1	332.5	+ 1.0	- 2.4
MINING	43.6	43.8	44.6	- 0.2	- 1.0
Oil and Gas Extraction	41.8	42.0	42.8	- 0.2	- 1.0
Nonmetallic Minerals	1.8	1.8	1.8	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	100.3	99.9	100.7	+ 0.4	- 0.4
General Contractors	18.9	18.9	19.4	0	- 0.5
Heavy Construction, ex. Bldg.	38.9	38.9	38.6	0	+ 0.3
Special Trade Contractors	42.5	42.1	42.7	+ 0.4	- 0.2
MANUFACTURING	186.2	185.4	187.2	+ 0.8	- 1.0
Durable Goods	80.4	80.5	80.5	- 0.1	- 0.1
Lumber and Wood Products	12.6	12.6	12.7	0	- 0.1
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	5.7	5.7	5.5	0	+ 0.2
Primary Metal Industries	2.7	2.8	2.7	- 0.1	0
Fabricated Metal Products	14.6	14.6	14.9	0	- 0.3
Machinery, Except Electrical	12.9	13.0	12.7	- 0.1	+ 0.2
Electrical & Electronic Equip.	5.9	5.8	5.9	+ 0.1	0
Transportation Equipment	21.4	21.4	21.6	0	- 0.2
Other Durable Goods (1)	4.6	4.6	4.5	0	+ 0.1
Nondurable Goods	105.8	104.9	106.7	+ 0.9	- 0.9
Food & Kindred Products	22.0	21.1	22.3	+ 0.9	- 0.3
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.	10.2	10.2	10.3	0	- 0.1
Paper & Allied Products	12.3	12.3	12.6	0	- 0.3
Printing & Publishing	9.7	9.6	9.6	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Chemicals & Allied Products	30.5	30.5	30.5	0	0
Inorganic Chemicals	7.1	7.1	7.1	0	0
Organic Chemicals	10.4	10.4	10.4	0	0
Petroleum and Coal Products	12.4	12.5	12.5	- 0.1	- 0.1
Petroleum Refining	11.3	11.4	11.4	- 0.1	- 0.1
Other Nondurable Goods (2)	8.7	8.7	8.9	0	- 0.2
SERVICE PRODUCING	1,307.3	1,299.5	1,302.7	+ 7.8	+ 4.6
TRANSP., COMM. & PUBLIC UTIL.	104.5	104.6	105.5	- 0.1	- 1.0
Railroad Transportation	4.9	4.9	5.1	0	- 0.2
Transportation, ex. Railroads	61.4	61.1	61.8	+ 0.3	- 0.4
Water Transportation	23.5	23.1	23.6	+ 0.4	- 0.1
Communications & Public Util.	38.2	38.6	38.6	- 0.4	- 0.4
Comm., ex. US Postal Service	15.7	15.8	15.9	- 0.1	- 0.2
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Serv.	22.5	22.8	22.7	- 0.3	- 0.2

LOUISIANA - CONTINUED
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Sept. 1993*	Aug. 1993**	Sept. 1992**	Net Change From Aug. 1993	Net Change From Sept. 1992
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	380.4	380.6	379.9	- 0.2	+ 0.5
Wholesale Trade	86.7	86.7	86.5	0	+ 0.2
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	47.3	47.6	47.2	- 0.3	+ 0.1
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	39.4	39.1	39.3	+ 0.3	+ 0.1
Retail Trade	293.7	293.9	293.4	- 0.2	+ 0.3
Bldg. Mat'ls. & Garden Supplies	10.8	10.9	10.7	- 0.1	+ 0.1
General Merchandise	39.8	39.4	39.4	+ 0.4	+ 0.4
Food Stores	58.8	59.0	59.4	- 0.2	- 0.6
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	31.5	31.5	31.5	0	0
Apparel and Accessory	15.5	15.7	15.6	- 0.2	- 0.1
Furniture and Equipment	10.1	10.1	10.1	0	0
Eating and Drinking Places	95.8	95.9	95.8	- 0.1	0
Other Retail Trade	31.4	31.4	30.9	0	+ 0.5
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	76.8	76.9	77.4	- 0.1	- 0.6
Banking	27.3	27.5	27.2	- 0.2	+ 0.1
Insurance	26.1	26.0	26.6	+ 0.1	- 0.5
SERVICES	400.8	397.5	399.4	+ 3.3	+ 1.4
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	21.6	21.6	21.5	0	+ 0.1
Personal Services	13.9	13.8	13.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Business Services	64.6	64.2	64.8	+ 0.4	- 0.2
Auto Repair, Services & Garages	11.4	11.3	11.5	+ 0.1	- 0.1
Miscellaneous Repair Services	6.3	6.3	6.2	0	+ 0.1
Amusement & Recreation Services	15.1	15.2	15.3	- 0.1	- 0.2
Health Services	134.8	134.9	135.2	- 0.1	- 0.4
Hospitals	58.8	58.9	58.5	- 0.1	+ 0.3
Legal Services	16.2	16.6	16.3	- 0.4	- 0.1
Educational Services	27.3	24.3	25.7	+ 3.0	+ 1.6
Social Services	24.5	24.1	24.1	+ 0.4	+ 0.4
Membership Organizations	26.4	26.5	26.4	- 0.1	0
Eng., Acct. and Related Services	27.8	27.6	27.8	+ 0.2	0
Miscellaneous Services	5.6	5.7	5.6	- 0.1	0
GOVERNMENT	344.8	339.9	340.5	+ 4.9	+ 4.3
Federal	37.7	37.9	37.8	- 0.2	- 0.1
State and Local	307.1	302.0	302.7	+ 5.1	+ 4.4
State	107.9	103.6	108.2	+ 4.3	- 0.3
Local	199.2	198.4	194.5	+ 0.8	+ 4.7

*** Preliminary** ****Revised**

(1) Includes furniture and fixtures, professional equipment and misc. manufacturing industries.

(2) Includes leather, rubber and textile products.

All estimates of nonagricultural wage and salaried workers in this publication are prepared in cooperation with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics and include all full-time and part-time workers who were employed during the pay period including the 12th of the month.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING AND SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN LOUISIANA

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
	Sept. '93*	Aug. '93**	Sept. '92**	Sept. '93*	Aug. '93**	Sept. '92**	Sept. '93*	Aug. '93**	Sept. '92**
ALL MANUFACTURING (1)	$551.62	$535.94	$522.83	42.4	42.3	42.3	$13.01	$12.67	$12.36
Durable Goods	492.88	481.43	457.88	42.6	43.1	41.4	11.57	11.17	11.06
Lumber & Wood Products	403.40	405.90	388.00	43.8	45.2	43.4	9.21	8.98	8.94
Stone, Clay, & Glass Pdts.	494.81	501.42	479.97	42.4	44.1	41.7	11.67	11.37	11.51
Fabricated Metal Products	475.88	449.19	446.35	44.6	43.4	40.8	10.67	10.35	10.94
Machinery, ex. Electrical	505.25	507.56	451.13	45.6	46.1	42.6	11.08	11.01	10.59
Electric & Electronic Equip.	730.50	696.17	631.63	37.5	43.0	39.7	19.48	16.19	15.91
Transportation Equipment	529.18	507.83	480.00	40.8	40.4	39.9	12.97	12.57	12.03
Nondurable Goods	600.08	582.55	578.40	42.2	41.7	43.1	14.22	13.97	13.42
Food & Kindred Products	326.70	319.87	334.15	39.6	38.4	41.0	8.25	8.33	8.15
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.	214.70	209.49	231.14	33.6	33.2	36.4	6.39	6.31	6.35
Paper & Allied Products	655.32	615.49	641.27	41.9	41.7	43.3	15.64	14.76	14.81
Printing & Publishing	454.69	453.50	439.96	38.5	38.4	38.9	11.81	11.81	11.31
Chemicals & Allied Pdts.	882.82	860.12	858.23	46.1	45.8	47.6	19.15	18.78	18.03
Petroleum & Coal Products	1,000.66	918.92	912.50	49.1	46.2	47.7	20.38	19.89	19.13
Petroleum Refining	1,028.94	944.98	938.40	49.9	46.3	48.0	20.62	20.41	19.55
MINING	632.26	608.75	626.78	50.1	48.7	47.7	12.62	12.50	13.14
COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC UTILITIES	586.04	590.20	627.13	41.8	41.1	43.4	14.02	14.36	14.45
BANKING	320.92	331.43	299.29	37.8	38.9	35.8	8.49	8.52	8.36

(1) Data in the average earnings table are for approximately **136,100** full-time and part-time workers in manufacturing and **80,300** nonsupervisory employees in communications, public utilities, mining and banking. The averages are computed on a "Gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

BATON ROUGE AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
	Sept. '93*	Aug. '93**	Sept. '92**	Sept. '93*	Aug. '93**	Sept. '92**	Sept. '93*	Aug. '93**	Sept. '92**
ALL MANUFACTURING (1)	$665.54	$652.74	$657.40	42.8	43.4	44.6	$15.55	$15.04	$14.74
Petro-Chemicals	908.75	890.01	899.08	46.2	46.5	47.9	19.67	19.14	18.77

(1)Data in the average earnings table are for approximately **14,700** production workers and are computed on a "Gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

NEW ORLEANS AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ALL MANUFACTURING (1)	$526.03	$510.66	$489.50	41.0	40.4	41.1	$12.83	$12.64	$11.91
Durable Goods	426.60	417.88	411.65	39.5	38.8	40.2	10.80	10.77	10.24
Stone, Clay, & Glass Pdts.	509.40	485.32	459.11	45.2	44.2	46.8	11.27	10.98	9.81
Fabricated Metal Products	472.95	431.10	427.66	45.0	42.1	41.2	10.51	10.24	10.38
Ship & Boatbld'g. and Repair	368.00	365.00	371.04	36.8	36.5	37.9	10.00	10.00	9.79
Nondurable Goods	616.50	593.98	566.16	42.4	41.8	42.0	14.54	14.21	13.48
Food & Kindred Products	412.55	380.57	350.45	42.4	40.4	39.2	9.73	9.42	8.94
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.	182.91	165.79	182.74	31.7	31.7	32.4	5.77	5.23	5.64
Printing & Publishing	464.84	445.83	456.50	41.1	39.7	41.5	11.31	11.23	11.00
Chemicals & Allied Pdts.	1,016.89	927.77	882.96	47.1	47.7	49.3	21.59	19.45	17.91

(1)Data in the average earnings table are for approximately **29,900** production workers and are computed on a "Gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

SHREVEPORT AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ALL MANUFACTURING (1)	$638.15	$605.17	$573.01	42.6	43.6	39.6	$14.98	$13.88	$14.47
Lumber and Wood Products	347.63	353.58	348.13	43.4	44.7	43.3	8.01	7.91	8.04
Food and Kindred Products	392.32	338.39	370.55	36.7	32.6	36.4	10.69	10.38	10.18
Printing and Publishing	373.92	434.01	360.43	38.0	40.6	37.9	9.84	10.69	9.51
Chemicals & Allied Products	712.78	611.89	662.70	45.4	43.0	47.0	15.70	14.23	14.10

(1)Data in the average earnings table are for approximately **12,900** production workers and are computed on a "Gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

LOUISIANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY

(in thousands)	PRELIMINARY Sept., 1993				REVISED Aug., 1993				REVISED Sept., 1992			
	LABOR FORCE	EMPL.	UNEMP.	RATE	LABOR FORCE	EMPL.	UNEMP.	RATE	LABOR FORCE	EMPL.	UNEMP.	RATE
LOUISIANA (SEAS. ADJ.)	1,839.9	1,712.9	127.0	6.9	1,871.7	1,733.3	138.4	7.4	1,909.5	1,750.9	158.6	8.3
LOUISIANA (UNADJUSTED)	1,839.2	1,717.0	122.2	6.6	1,880.0	1,738.8	141.2	7.5	1,909.5	1,756.4	153.1	8.0
METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS:												
Alexandria 1/	55.8	52.3	3.5	6.2	57.2	53.3	3.9	6.8	57.3	53.3	4.0	7.0
Baton Rouge 2/	273.2	255.8	17.4	6.4	278.5	258.8	19.7	7.1	279.9	261.8	18.1	6.5
Houma - Thibodaux 3/	66.2	62.0	4.2	6.3	67.4	62.5	4.9	7.3	69.3	62.7	6.6	9.5
Lafayette 4/	102.1	97.0	5.1	5.0	104.4	98.6	5.8	5.6	107.0	99.5	7.5	7.0
Lake Charles 5/	79.8	74.6	5.2	6.5	80.9	75.0	5.9	7.2	82.5	75.0	7.5	9.1
Monroe 6/	66.7	62.8	3.9	5.9	67.0	62.7	4.3	6.5	69.7	65.0	4.7	6.7
New Orleans 7/	547.5	511.3	36.2	6.6	558.0	517.0	41.0	7.4	571.6	529.4	42.2	7.4
Shreveport 8/	152.8	143.8	9.0	5.9	156.8	146.6	10.2	6.5	156.0	145.3	10.7	6.9

1/ Rapides Parish only. 2/ Includes Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Livingston, and West Baton Rouge parishes. 3/ Includes Lafourche and Terrebonne parishes. 4/ Includes Lafayette and St. Martin parishes. 5/ Calcasieu Parish only. 6/ Ouachita Parish only. 7/ Includes Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard, St. Tammany, St. Charles and St. John the Baptist parishes. 8/ Includes Bossier and Caddo parishes.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The Consumer Price Index, sometimes called the "Cost of Living Index", is a monthly measure of the average change in prices in a fixed quantity of goods and services.

ALL URBAN CONSUMERS	INDEX	% CHANGE FROM PRIOR MONTH	% CHANGE FROM PRIOR YEAR
September 1993	145.1	+ 0.2	+ 2.7
September 1992	141.3	+ 0.3	+ 3.0

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE, OTHER AREAS

AREA	PRELIMINARY SEPTEMBER 93 LABOR FORCE	EMPL	UNEMP	RATE	REVISED AUGUST 93 LABOR FORCE	EMPL	UNEMP	RATE
CROWLEY (ACADIA)	20,275	18,700	1,575	7.7	21,000	19,125	1,875	8.9
OAKDALE (ALLEN)	9,425	8,675	750	7.9	9,650	8,700	950	9.7
NAPOLEONVILLE (ASSUMPTION)	5,650	4,950	700	12.6	5,850	5,000	850	14.5
BUNKIE (AVOYELLES)	15,800	14,550	1,250	7.9	15,625	14,100	1,525	9.8
DERIDDER (BEAUREGARD)	13,675	12,725	950	6.9	13,875	12,775	1,100	7.9
ARCADIA (BIENVILLE)	6,775	6,375	400	6.0	7,050	6,550	500	7.0
COLUMBIA (CALDWELL)	4,175	3,850	325	7.9	4,300	3,925	375	9.0
CAMERON (CAMERON)	3,925	3,775	150	3.7	4,000	3,850	150	3.9
JONESVILLE (CATAHOULA)	3,725	3,375	350	9.5	3,900	3,500	400	10.4
HOMER (CLAIBORNE)	6,625	6,275	350	5.2	6,825	6,400	425	6.3
FERRIDAY (CONCORDIA)	7,950	7,175	775	9.7	8,225	7,325	900	11.1
MANSFIELD (DESOTO)	10,425	9,675	750	7.3	10,675	9,800	875	8.1
LAKE PROVIDENCE (E. CARROLL)	3,475	3,150	325	9.2	3,725	3,250	475	13.0
CLINTON (EAST FELICIANA)	6,800	6,300	500	7.4	7,050	6,425	625	8.8
VILLE PLATTE(EVANGELINE)	14,100	13,400	700	5.0	14,625	13,750	875	6.0
WINNSBORO (FRANKLIN)	9,675	8,950	725	7.6	10,100	9,225	875	8.8
COLFAX (GRANT)	6,350	5,925	425	6.8	6,525	6,000	525	7.9
NEW IBERIA (IBERIA)	25,150	23,400	1,750	7.0	25,950	23,825	2,125	8.2
PLAQUEMINE (IBERVILLE)	11,475	10,250	1,225	10.7	11,875	10,450	1,425	12.0
JONESBORO (JACKSON)	6,350	6,025	325	5.2	6,700	6,300	400	5.9
JENNINGS (JEFFERSON DAVIS)	10,425	9,625	800	7.6	11,100	10,075	1,025	9.2
JENA (LASALLE)	5,825	5,350	475	8.1	6,050	5,475	575	9.4
RUSTON (LINCOLN)	20,050	19,350	700	3.5	19,125	18,375	750	3.9
TALLULAH (MADISON)	5,450	4,975	475	8.9	5,775	5,125	650	11.5
BASTROP (MOREHOUSE)	12,850	11,850	1,000	7.7	13,450	12,150	1,300	9.7
NATCHITOCHES (NATCHITOCHES)	16,100	15,075	1,025	6.4	16,375	15,200	1,175	7.2
POINT-A-LA-HACHE (PLAQUM.)	7,775	7,150	625	8.0	8,050	7,300	750	9.3
NEW ROADS (POINTE COUPEE)	6,500	5,725	775	12.0	6,850	5,900	950	14.0
COUSHATTA (RED RIVER)	3,875	3,575	300	7.9	4,000	3,675	325	8.2
RAYVILLE (RICHLAND)	7,775	7,125	650	8.3	8,075	7,300	775	9.5
MANY (SABINE)	10,350	9,775	575	5.6	10,675	10,000	675	6.3
GREENSBURG (ST. HELENA)	2,525	2,325	200	7.9	2,675	2,425	250	9.1
LUTCHER (ST. JAMES)	7,650	6,675	975	12.7	8,025	6,800	1,225	15.1
OPELOUSAS (ST. LANDRY)	30,325	27,925	2,400	7.9	31,400	28,525	2,875	9.2
MORGAN CITY (ST. MARY)	20,825	19,075	1,750	8.4	21,675	19,500	2,175	10.1
HAMMOND (TANGIPAHOA)	40,275	36,825	3,450	8.6	41,150	37,000	4,150	10.1
ST. JOSEPH (TENSAS)	2,325	2,175	150	6.4	2,425	2,250	175	6.9
FARMERVILLE (UNION)	10,125	9,600	525	5.1	10,375	9,725	650	6.2
ABBEVILLE (VERMILION)	17,200	16,050	1,150	6.7	17,675	16,300	1,375	7.8
LEESVILLE (VERNON)	18,175	16,650	1,525	8.4	18,725	16,975	1,750	9.3
BOGALUSA (WASHINGTON)	16,950	15,625	1,325	7.9	17,550	16,025	1,525	8.6
MINDEN (WEBSTER)	16,100	14,600	1,500	9.3	16,825	15,050	1,775	10.6
OAK GROVE (WEST CARROLL)	4,275	3,775	500	11.6	4,275	3,575	700	16.2
ST. FRANCISVILLE (W. FELIC.)	4,225	3,950	275	6.6	4,475	4,100	375	8.4
WINNFIELD (WINN)	5,350	5,075	275	5.3	5,500	5,200	300	5.3

NOTE: LABOR MARKET AREAS ARE DESIGNATED BY NAME OF PRINCIPAL TOWN, BUT INCLUDE ALL OF PARISH IN PARENTHESES.

ABOVE DATA ROUNDED TO NEAREST 25. SUBTOTALS MAY NOT ADD TO TOTALS DUE TO ROUNDING. RATES ARE COMPUTED FROM UNROUNDED DATA.

ALEXANDRIA AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Sept. 1993*	Aug. 1993**	Sept. 1992**	Net Change From Aug. 1993	Net Change From Sept. 1992
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	48.5	48.1	47.5	+ 0.4	+ 1.0
GOODS PRODUCING	6.7	6.7	6.4	0	+ 0.3
MINING	0.1	0.1	0.1	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	3.2	3.3	3.0	- 0.1	+ 0.2
MANUFACTURING	3.4	3.3	3.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Durable Goods	2.1	2.0	2.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Nondurable Goods	1.3	1.3	1.3	0	0
SERVICE PRODUCING	41.8	41.4	41.1	+ 0.4	+ 0.7
TRANSP., COMM. & PUBLIC UTIL.	2.6	2.5	2.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	10.6	10.6	10.4	0	+ 0.2
Wholesale Trade	2.0	1.9	1.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Retail Trade	8.6	8.7	8.6	- 0.1	0
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	2.1	2.1	2.1	0	0
SERVICES	13.5	13.6	13.5	- 0.1	0
Health Services	6.5	6.6	6.4	- 0.1	+ 0.1
GOVERNMENT	13.0	12.6	12.8	+ 0.4	+ 0.2
Federal	2.4	2.4	2.5	0	- 0.1
State and Local	10.6	10.2	10.3	+ 0.4	+ 0.3
State	4.9	4.9	4.9	0	0
Local	5.7	5.3	5.4	+ 0.4	+ 0.3

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Alexandria MSA was estimated at 48,500 for the current month. This estimate was 400 more than last month and 1,000 more than September, 1992.

Employment in the goods producing industry for the current month was estimated at 6,700. Construction declined by 100 as a result of less business in both heavy and special trade contractors. Manufacturing edged up slightly to 3,400.

Service producing employment for the current month was estimated at 41,800. As a result of the new school year, employment from August increased by a total of 400, with the largest increase centered in local government. Transportation, communications, and public utilities employment increased by 100, due to more business activity in the trucking industry. Staff cutbacks at a local hospital caused the services sector to decline to 13,500.

BATON ROUGE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Sept. 1993*	Aug. 1993**	Sept. 1992**	Net Change From Aug. 1993	Net Change From Sept. 1992
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	251.8	249.6	251.1	+ 2.2	+ 0.7
GOODS PRODUCING	54.2	54.1	55.4	+ 0.1	- 1.2
MINING	0.9	0.9	0.9	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	30.1	29.9	30.9	+ 0.2	- 0.8
MANUFACTURING	23.2	23.3	23.6	- 0.1	- 0.4
Durable Goods	5.5	5.6	6.0	- 0.1	- 0.5
Nondurable Goods	17.7	17.7	17.6	0	+ 0.1
Food & Kindred Products	1.9	1.9	1.8	0	+ 0.1
Printing & Publishing	1.5	1.5	1.4	0	+ 0.1
Chemicals and Petroleum Products	12.5	12.5	12.5	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	1.8	1.8	1.9	0	- 0.1
SERVICE PRODUCING	197.6	195.5	195.7	+ 2.1	+ 1.9
TRANSP., COMM. & PUBLIC UTIL.	11.7	11.8	11.6	- 0.1	+ 0.1
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	54.4	54.7	53.9	- 0.3	+ 0.5
Wholesale Trade	13.5	13.5	13.5	0	0
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	9.0	9.0	9.1	0	- 0.1
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	4.5	4.5	4.4	0	+ 0.1
Retail Trade	40.9	41.2	40.4	- 0.3	+ 0.5
General Merchandise	5.9	5.8	5.7	- 0.1	+ 0.2
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	14.4	14.3	14.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Banking	4.5	4.5	4.3	0	+ 0.2
SERVICES	59.7	59.7	58.8	0	+ 0.9
GOVERNMENT	57.4	55.0	57.1	+ 2.4	+ 0.3
Federal	2.7	2.7	2.7	0	0
State and Local	54.7	52.3	54.4	+ 2.4	+ 0.3
State	30.7	28.4	30.6	+ 2.3	+ 0.1
Local	24.0	23.9	23.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.2

BATON ROUGE AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment for the Baton Rouge MSA rebounded over the month to a level of 251,800, aided by strong seasonal advances in government. This was the highest level since November, 1992. The overall yearly gain of 700 was centered mainly in the retail trade and health services segments.

Goods producing employment was estimated at 54,200, an increase of 100 from August, but 1,200 less than the year-ago level. Improved business activity in heavy construction was solely responsible for the increase in the construction sector. Manufacturing continued to move downward in September as a result of less business in the fabricated metal industry.

Service producing employment increased by 2,100 to 197,600 for September. The largest gain occurred in government due to the return of students and faculty to local and state educational institutions. Finance, insurance, and real estate was the only other sector reporting job gains, influenced by additional hires in the insurance industry. Transportation, communications, and public utilities declined to 11,700, triggered by losses scattered throughout the sector. Seasonal dismissals in retail general merchandise stores and a labor dispute at a large retail grocery store chain caused a downward shift in the trade sector.

Average weekly earnings of the Baton Rouge MSA's 14,700 production workers in all manufacturing was $665.54 for September, an increase of $12.80. Compared to the prior year, weekly earnings were up by $8.14. Average weekly hours, at 42.8, decreased by 0.6 hours in September, while average hourly earnings increased by $0.51 an hour. The increase of higher paid employees contributed to these changes.

The total civilian labor force for the Baton Rouge MSA registered at 273,200. This figure was comprised of 255,800 employed and 17,400 unemployed. The unemployment rate stood at 6.4 percent in September.

The Baton Rouge Job Service Office served 1,736 individuals with new or renewal applications. A total of 1,528 referrals to current openings resulted in 165 placements during the month of September.

HOUMA - THIBODAUX AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Sept. 1993*	Aug. 1993**	Sept. 1992**	Net Change From Aug. 1993	Net Change From Sept. 1992
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	58.5	58.3	57.4	+ 0.2	+ 1.1
GOODS PRODUCING	12.9	12.7	12.4	+ 0.2	+ 0.5
MINING	4.5	4.6	4.4	- 0.1	+ 0.1
CONSTRUCTION	3.5	3.4	3.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
MANUFACTURING	4.9	4.7	4.8	+ 0.2	+ 0.1
Durable Goods	3.3	3.2	3.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Nondurable Goods	1.6	1.5	1.6	+ 0.1	0
SERVICE PRODUCING	45.6	45.6	45.0	0	+ 0.6
TRANSP., COMM. & PUBLIC UTIL.	5.6	5.7	5.5	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Water Transportation	3.2	3.2	3.1	0	+ 0.1
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	14.6	15.0	14.7	- 0.4	- 0.1
Wholesale Trade	2.8	3.0	3.1	- 0.2	- 0.3
Retail Trade	11.8	12.0	11.6	- 0.2	+ 0.2
General Mdse. & App. & Acc.	2.3	2.3	2.3	0	0
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	2.2	2.2	2.2	0	0
SERVICES	11.3	11.5	11.0	- 0.2	+ 0.3
GOVERNMENT	11.9	11.2	11.6	+ 0.7	+ 0.3
Federal	0.4	0.4	0.5	0	- 0.1
State and Local	11.5	10.8	11.1	+ 0.7	+ 0.4
State	3.3	2.7	3.4	+ 0.6	- 0.1
Local	8.2	8.1	7.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.5

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Houma-Thibodaux MSA was estimated at 58,500 in September. This was 200 more than the August revised estimate and 1,100 above September, 1992.

Goods producing employment, estimated at 12,900, was 200 above last month and 500 higher than the year-ago figure. Mining employment was down in the oil and gas field services sector. Construction rose by 100 for September. Manufacturing employment increased by 200 over the month, shared equally by durable and nondurable goods.

Service producing employment was estimated at 45,600 for September. This figure was unchanged from August, but exhibited a gain of 600 from a year ago. Transportation, communications, and public utilities employment decreased due to declines spread throughout the industry. Trade employment was down due to less business in both wholesale and retail trade. Services edged downward from the revised level of 11,500 to 11,300. Government was boosted by the beginning of the fall term in the state and local education sectors.

Estimated unemployment was 4,200 in September. Unemployment presently comprises 6.3 percent of the civilian labor force for the Houma-Thibodaux MSA. Recipients of regular unemployment benefits totaled 685.

LAFAYETTE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Sept. 1993*	Aug. 1993**	Sept. 1992**	Net Change From Aug. 1993	Net Change From Sept. 1992
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	101.5	101.3	100.7	+ 0.2	+ 0.8
GOODS PRODUCING	25.6	25.3	25.4	+ 0.3	+ 0.2
MINING	10.7	10.6	10.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
CONSTRUCTION	5.3	5.2	5.3	+ 0.1	0
MANUFACTURING	9.6	9.5	9.6	+ 0.1	0
Durable Goods	3.3	3.3	3.2	0	+ 0.1
Nondurable Goods	6.3	6.2	6.4	+ 0.1	- 0.1
SERVICE PRODUCING	75.9	76.0	75.3	- 0.1	+ 0.6
TRANSP., COMM. & PUBLIC UTIL.	6.0	6.1	6.0	- 0.1	0
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	26.5	26.3	26.5	+ 0.2	0
Wholesale Trade	6.4	6.4	6.5	0	- 0.1
Retail Trade	20.1	19.9	20.0	+ 0.2	+ 0.1
General Merchandise	2.4	2.4	2.4	0	0
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	4.0	4.0	3.9	0	+ 0.1
Banking	1.2	1.2	1.2	0	0
SERVICES	25.7	25.9	25.1	- 0.2	+ 0.6
GOVERNMENT	13.7	13.7	13.8	0	- 0.1
Federal	1.0	1.0	1.0	0	0
State and Local	12.7	12.7	12.8	0	- 0.1
State	4.7	4.2	4.8	+ 0.5	- 0.1
Local	8.0	8.5	8.0	- 0.5	0

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment, estimated at 101,500 in September, was up by 200 from the August revised estimate of 101,300.

Goods producing employment was estimated at 25,600, a gain of 300 from the August estimate of 25,300. Mining, construction, and manufacturing were all up by 100 in September.

Service producing employment was estimated at 75,900 for September. This was 100 less than August, but 600 higher that September, 1992. Transportation, communications, and public utilities was down by 100 mostly due to the trucking industry. Trade rose by 200 due to growth in food stores and miscellaneous retail. Services declined by 200 due to a seasonal drop in the amusement and recreational services sector.

LAKE CHARLES AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Sept. 1993*	Aug. 1993**	Sept. 1992**	Net Change From Aug. 1993	Net Change From Sept. 1992
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	73.4	72.4	71.5	+ 1.0	+ 1.9
GOODS PRODUCING	21.6	21.0	20.3	+ 0.6	+ 1.3
MINING	1.0	0.9	1.0	+ 0.1	0
CONSTRUCTION	9.7	9.2	8.5	+ 0.5	+ 1.2
MANUFACTURING	10.9	10.9	10.8	0	+ 0.1
Durable Goods	1.6	1.6	1.3	0	+ 0.3
Nondurable Goods	9.3	9.3	9.5	0	- 0.2
Chemical & Petro Products	8.5	8.5	8.7	0	- 0.2
SERVICE PRODUCING	51.8	51.4	51.2	+ 0.4	+ 0.6
TRANSP., COMM. & PUBLIC UTIL.	4.7	4.8	4.5	- 0.1	+ 0.2
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	16.6	16.3	16.1	+ 0.3	+ 0.5
Wholesale Trade	3.6	3.5	3.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Retail Trade	13.0	12.8	12.6	+ 0.2	+ 0.4
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	2.6	2.6	2.7	0	- 0.1
SERVICES	15.4	15.3	15.8	+ 0.1	- 0.4
GOVERNMENT	12.5	12.4	12.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.4
Federal	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
State and Local	11.9	11.8	11.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.4
State	4.1	3.8	3.8	+ 0.3	+ 0.3
Local	7.8	8.0	7.7	- 0.2	+ 0.1

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Lake Charles MSA was estimated at 73,400 in September. This estimate was 1,000 above the August revised estimate and 1,900 above September of last year.

Goods producing employment was estimated at 21,600 in September. This was 600 above August and 1,300 higher than September, 1992. Mining increased by 100 over the month. Construction employment was higher, mainly due to hiring in the special trade contractors sector. Manufacturing payrolls held steady over the month.

Service producing employment, estimated at 51,800, was 400 employees higher than August and 600 above the year-ago figure. Transportation, communications, and public utilities employment was down by 100 as a result of less business at the port facilities. Trade employment was up in the retail sector, with most of this increase in general merchandise, and apparel and accessories stores. Services had a small increase of 100 over August. Government employment increased by 100. Within the industry, state government was up by 300 at the colleges and universities, and local government was down by 200 in the local, except education segment.

MONROE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Sept. 1993*	Aug. 1993**	Sept. 1992**	Net Change From Aug. 1993	Net Change From Sept. 1992
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	61.3	60.2	61.5	+ 1.1	- 0.2
GOODS PRODUCING	12.1	11.7	12.0	+ 0.4	+ 0.1
MINING	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	3.7	3.5	3.5	+ 0.2	+ 0.2
MANUFACTURING	8.0	7.8	8.1	+ 0.2	- 0.1
Durable Goods	2.3	2.2	2.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Nondurable Goods	5.7	5.6	6.0	+ 0.1	- 0.3
Food & Kindred Products	0.5	0.5	0.6	0	- 0.1
Other Nondurable Goods	5.2	5.1	5.4	+ 0.1	- 0.2
SERVICE PRODUCING	49.2	48.5	49.5	+ 0.7	- 0.3
TRANSP., COMM. & PUBLIC UTIL.	3.0	3.0	2.9	0	+ 0.1
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	15.1	15.1	15.1	0	0
Wholesale Trade	3.3	3.3	3.2	0	+ 0.1
Retail Trade	11.8	11.8	11.9	0	- 0.1
General Mdse. & App. & Acc.	2.6	2.6	2.7	0	- 0.1
Eating & Drinking Places	3.7	3.8	3.7	- 0.1	0
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	4.3	4.3	4.2	0	+ 0.1
Banking	1.7	1.8	1.7	- 0.1	0
SERVICES	15.0	15.0	14.8	0	+ 0.2
GOVERNMENT	11.8	11.1	12.5	+ 0.7	- 0.7
Federal	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
State and Local	11.3	10.6	12.0	+ 0.7	- 0.7
State	4.4	3.5	5.0	+ 0.9	- 0.6
Local	6.9	7.1	7.0	- 0.2	- 0.1

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Monroe MSA was estimated at 61,300 in September. This was 1,100 more than the August revised estimate, but 200 less than the year-ago figure.

Goods producing employment, estimated at 12,100, showed increases of 400 compared to August and 100 compared to September of last year. Mining remained stable over the month. Construction rose by 200 over the month, as well as over the year. Manufacturing employment, at 8,000, was 200 higher than August, but 100 less than one year ago.

Service producing employment was estimated at 49,200 for September. This was 700 more than August, but 300 less than September, 1992. The only over-the-month gain was in government, reflecting the beginning of the fall semester at state educational facilities. All other segments were unchanged over the month.

NEW ORLEANS AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Sept. 1993*	Aug. 1993**	Sept. 1992**	Net Change From Aug. 1993	Net Change From Sept. 1992
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	537.3	532.8	538.2	+ 4.5	- 0.9
GOODS PRODUCING	78.1	78.2	81.8	- 0.1	- 3.7
MINING	12.4	12.5	13.7	- 0.1	- 1.3
Oil & Gas Extraction	12.0	12.1	13.3	- 0.1	- 1.3
CONSTRUCTION	23.1	22.9	23.5	+ 0.2	- 0.4
MANUFACTURING	42.6	42.8	44.6	- 0.2	- 2.0
Durable Goods	21.0	21.2	22.8	- 0.2	- 1.8
Lumber and Wood Products	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	0.9	1.0	1.1	- 0.1	- 0.2
Fabricated Metal Products	2.0	2.0	2.1	0	- 0.1
Machinery Inc. Electrical	3.9	4.0	3.9	- 0.1	0
Transportation Equipment	11.8	11.8	13.2	0	- 1.4
Ship & Boatbuilding & Repairing	9.3	9.2	10.2	+ 0.1	- 0.9
Other Durable Goods	1.8	1.8	1.9	0	- 0.1
Nondurable Goods	21.6	21.6	21.8	0	- 0.2
Food & Kindred Products	5.3	5.3	5.5	0	- 0.2
Apparel & Other Textile Products	2.0	2.0	1.9	0	+ 0.1
Printing & Publishing	3.6	3.6	3.6	0	0
Chemicals and Allied Products	4.9	4.9	4.9	0	0
Petroleum & Coal Products	4.4	4.4	4.5	0	- 0.1
Other Nondurable Goods	1.4	1.4	1.4	0	0
SERVICE PRODUCING	459.2	454.6	456.4	+ 4.6	+ 2.8
TRANSP., COMM. & PUBLIC UTIL.	39.7	39.5	40.4	+ 0.2	- 0.7
Railroad Transportation	1.3	1.3	1.3	0	0
Trucking and Warehousing	7.5	7.5	7.3	0	+ 0.2
Water Transportation	10.5	10.4	11.0	+ 0.1	- 0.5
Comm. & Public Util.	12.2	12.2	12.7	0	- 0.5
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	136.1	136.6	137.2	- 0.5	- 1.1
Wholesale Trade	32.2	32.1	31.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.5
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	17.2	17.3	17.1	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	15.0	14.8	14.6	+ 0.2	+ 0.4
Retail Trade	103.9	104.5	105.5	- 0.6	- 1.6
General Merchandise	11.9	11.9	12.5	0	- 0.6
Food Stores	20.1	20.4	21.0	- 0.3	- 0.9
Eating & Drinking Places	38.0	38.1	37.5	- 0.1	+ 0.5
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	29.0	28.9	29.0	+ 0.1	0
Banking	8.9	9.0	8.9	- 0.1	0
SERVICES	158.9	155.0	156.8	+ 3.9	+ 2.1
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	13.5	13.3	13.5	+ 0.2	0
Health Services	45.9	46.1	45.5	- 0.2	+ 0.4
Educational Services	16.9	12.7	17.2	+ 4.2	- 0.3
GOVERNMENT	95.5	94.6	93.0	+ 0.9	+ 2.5
Federal	16.5	16.6	16.6	- 0.1	- 0.1
State and Local	79.0	78.0	76.4	+ 1.0	+ 2.6
State	20.4	20.1	21.3	+ 0.3	- 0.9
Local	58.6	57.9	55.1	+ 0.7	+ 3.5

NEW ORLEANS AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

The New Orleans MSA nonagricultural employment in September was estimated at 537,300. This was an increase of 4,500 from the August revised estimate, but 900 less than September, 1992.

Goods producing employment was estimated at 78,100 in September. This was 100 less than August and 3,700 lower than September one year ago. Mining was down by 100 over the month in the oil and gas extraction sector. Growth in the construction segment was attributed to small increases in the heavy and special trade contractors sectors. Manufacturing employment exhibited a loss in the stone, clay, and glass products; and machinery and electrical equipment durable goods segments.

Service producing employment, estimated at 459,200, was 4,600 above August and 2,800 higher than the year-ago figure. Transportation, communications, and public utilities employment was higher due to small increases in both the water and air transportation segments. Trade employment was lower mainly due to food stores in the retail trade sector. Finance, insurance, and real estate payrolls gained 100 over the month, mainly in the real estate and insurance sectors. The seasonal increase in educational services boosted services employment in September. Increases in local education payrolls resulted in most of the total government growth in September.

An estimated 29,900 production workers in the New Orleans MSA earned $526.03 per week, up $15.37 from last month's average. Average weekly hours were 41.0, up 0.6 hours from the previous month. Average hourly earnings were $12.83, up $0.19 from August and $0.92 higher than September of last year.

Estimated unemployment was 36,200 for September. The unemployment rate registered 6.6 percent. Recipients of regular unemployment benefits totaled 7,616.

SHREVEPORT AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Sept. 1993*	Aug. 1993**	Sept. 1992**	Net Change From Aug. 1993	Net Change From Sept. 1992
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	140.9	140.9	139.1	0	+ 1.8
GOODS PRODUCING	26.8	26.8	26.7	0	+ 0.1
MINING	2.6	2.7	2.7	- 0.1	- 0.1
CONSTRUCTION	6.9	6.9	7.0	0	- 0.1
MANUFACTURING	17.3	17.2	17.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
Durable Goods	11.4	11.3	11.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Lumber and Wood Products	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
Primary and Fabricated Metals	1.8	1.8	2.0	0	- 0.2
Machinery, Inc. Electrical	4.5	4.4	4.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Other Durable Goods	4.6	4.6	4.4	0	+ 0.2
Nondurable Goods	5.9	5.9	5.8	0	+ 0.1
Food & Kindred Products	0.8	0.8	0.8	0	0
Printing & Publishing	1.2	1.2	1.3	0	- 0.1
Chemicals & Petroleum Products	1.8	1.9	1.8	- 0.1	0
Other Nondurable Goods	2.1	2.0	1.9	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
SERVICE PRODUCING	114.1	114.1	112.4	0	+ 1.7
TRANSP., COMM. & PUBLIC UTIL.	7.8	7.9	8.0	- 0.1	- 0.2
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	34.4	34.4	33.0	0	+ 1.4
Wholesale Trade	8.5	8.5	8.4	0	- 0.1
Retail Trade	25.9	25.9	24.6	0	+ 1.3
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	6.6	6.6	6.3	0	+ 0.3
SERVICES	37.1	37.3	37.1	- 0.2	0
GOVERNMENT	28.2	27.9	28.0	+ 0.3	+ 0.2
Federal	5.1	5.1	5.0	0	+ 0.1
State and Local	23.1	22.8	23.0	+ 0.3	+ 0.1
State	7.7	7.7	7.8	0	- 0.1
Local	15.4	15.1	15.2	+ 0.3	+ 0.2

SHREVEPORT AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Shreveport MSA showed no change from the August, 1993 revised estimate of 140,900. Compared to a year ago, nonagricultural employment in the Shreveport MSA was up by 1,800 jobs.

Goods producing employment was unchanged from the August figure of 26,800. Mining was down slightly by 100; while manufacturing showed a minimal gain of 100.

Service producing employment was unchanged from last month's figure of 114,100. Transportation, communications, and public utilities was down by 100 due to losses in the communications and public utilities sector. Services declined by 200 due to a drop in the membership sports and recreation clubs industry. Government rose by 300 primarily due to a seasonal increase in the local education sector.

An estimated 12,900 production workers in the Shreveport MSA had average weekly earnings of $638.15 in September, compared to $605.17 in August, and $573.01 a year ago. Average weekly hours decreased to 42.6 in September, down from August's figure of 43.6, but up from the September, 1992 figure of 39.6 hours. Average hourly earnings increased to $14.98, up from $13.88 the previous month and $14.47 a year ago.

The Shreveport MSA had a civilian labor force in September of 152,800, including 143,800 employed and 9,000 unemployed. The unemployment rate was 5.9 percent.

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